14th May 1954]

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know whether any grant is made to the slum-dwellers affected by fire accidents? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Grants are given to persons affected by fire accidents."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" As this matter relates to a very poor grade of people dwelling in the City, irrespective of whether the Government or the Corporation has the legal title to the slum areas, may I request the Government to pay serious attention to this problem and to build tenements for these people in the City during the ensuing year? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is the purpose for which this comprehensive scheme of slum improvement has been formulated."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In connection with the giving of aid to the victims of fire accidents, the Corporation has set apart a little sum with which they can only give a dole of Rs. 5 per hut which is negligible when compared to the loss sustained by the slum-dwellers. Will the Government be, therefore, pleased to allot a certain amount to be distributed to them by the Government authorities and not by the Corporation as far as the City of Madras is concerned? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is a difficult proposition. We have to find money for many things."

Starting of further minor irrigation works in Malabar.

* 766 *Q.*—SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE (on behalf of Sri A. Appu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any investigation has been made in Malabar about the possibilities of starting further minor irrigation works in the district; and

(*b*) if so, whether any proposal has been received from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) A special programme of minor irrigation works for the year 1954–55 received from the Special Chief Engineer (Irrigation) has been approved by the State Government and forwarded to the Government of India for their approval and financial sanction. The programme includes 17 works in Malabar district costing Rs. 2,60,390."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know whether the execution of all the sanctioned minor irrigation works has been completed in Malabar district? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Works sanctioned for which year? "

[14th May 1954

Sri KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" For the year 1952–53."

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" All the workc sanctioned for 1952–53 have been carried out. The number of schemes carried out is 5 and the cost is Rs. 62,000. The area benefited is 613 acres."

Geological survey of South Kanara.

* 767 Q.—Sri T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any geological survey of South Kanara was undertaken recently; and

(b) if so, whether reports regarding the survey have been received by the Government?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Malnad portion of Puttur taluk, South Kanara district, was surveyed by the Geological Survey of India during 1952–53 field season. The report has been received and it will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*."

Sri T. ANANTA PAI :—" The recent geological surveys along the West Coast on the border of Mysore State have shown considerable deposits of manganese. May I, therefore, request the Government of Madras to direct the Geological Survey of India to see whether similar deposits are found along the West Coast regions of South Kanara district? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is a different question. But the geological survey that I referred to also shows that the region covering an area of 400 square miles which forms a major portion of the Puttur taluk contains iron ore in certain areas, white china clay in certain other areas and also some other materials which could be of use."

Sri M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know what the total amount spent by the Government on this survey is? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It was the Geological Survey of India that did the survey. I do not think this Government have spent any money on it."

Hostels for the students of the Backward Classes.

* 768 Q.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Viswanathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the number of hostels separately run for the students of the Backward Classes in the State; and